

Grier, Gina

From: Lear, Gary
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 3:13 PM
To: hartwood2@kc.rr.com
Cc: Weber, Rebecca; Tapp, Joshua; TGross@kdheks.gov; rmanes@tnc.org; trewyn@k-state.edu; John Blair
Subject: RE: Konza prairie air monitor

Dear Mr. Volland,

Thank you for your interest in the CASTNET monitoring program. The ozone monitor at the Konza Prairie CASTNET site was discontinued on April 5 following requests from Mr. Rob Manes at The Nature Conservancy (the land owner) and Dr. Ron Trewyn of Kansas State University (the operating agency) (correspondence attached). Because CASTNET monitors operate at the discretion of the land owner and operator, we complied with these requests.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Gary

Gary Lear
CASTNET Program Manager
202-343-9159
USEPA/OAR/OAP/CAMD
Washington DC

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Gross [mailto:TGross@kdheks.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:26 PM
To: 'Craig Volland'
Cc: Tapp, Joshua
Subject: RE: Konza prairie air monitor

Craig

That is an EPA monitor not a KDHE one, so I will defer to them. I will copy Josh Tapp on this note so he can respond. Our preliminary review of the satellite images shows limited burning this year in the Flint Hills.

Tom

Thomas Gross
Bureau of Air
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-1692

-----Original Message-----

From: Craig Volland [mailto:hartwood2@kc.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 4:25 PM

105 Anderson Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-0113
Phone: 785/532-5110
Fax: 785
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: Robert Manes [mailto:RMANES@TNC.ORG]
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 12:07 AM
To: Tapp, Joshua
Cc: John Briggs; Brian K. Obermeyer; Lance Hedges; Tom Gross
Subject: Konza Ozone Monitor

Dear Mr. Tapp:

The purpose of this message is to communicate concerns, on behalf of The Nature Conservancy of Kansas (TNC), regarding the ozone monitor currently sited at Konza Biological Station, a 9.000-acre research property near Manhattan, KS, owned primarily by TNC and operated by Kansas State University. I would first emphasize that TNC continues to fully support the CASTNET monitoring program goals of providing long-term data sets for ozone and other air quality parameters. We also support the gathering of scientific data that can aid in analyzing, abating and facilitating adaption to climate change.

I was concerned, however, to learn recently that the status of the Konza monitoring station had, two years ago, been changed from a research purpose to a regulatory purpose. I cannot recall or find record that TNC was consulted about, or notified of, this change. As a result, neither we nor Kansas State University representatives were able to evaluate or communicate implications of the change.

While neither I nor my staff possess particular expertise in technical aspects of air quality monitoring or enforcement, we are aware that use of data from Konza for regulatory purposes could have negative and unintended impacts on important research, conservation and other activities in the region, including prescribed and experimental burning. We are committed to continuing the long-term research efforts that have been underway at the Konza site for over a decade. We recognize the importance of long-term air quality data sets to EPA and to researchers at the Konza Prairie. However, I do want to have opportunity to discuss whether it is appropriate for the Konza monitor to continue in place for regulatory purposes.

Mr. Tom Gross of KDHE informed me of a scheduled call on the afternoon of April 11th to discuss this issue. I would appreciate the opportunity to participate in that discussion, or in another near-term venue to address this issue. Please feel free to call me at your earliest convenience at the mobile phone number below.

Thank you.

Rob Manes
Director, The Nature Conservancy of Kansas
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620-388-1940 (mobile)
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